Received September 29, 1768.

XXXVII. *Elucidation of an* Etruſcan *Coin of* Pæſtum, *in* Lucania, *emitted from the Mint there, about the Time of the Social War. In a Letter to* Charles Morton, *M. D. Sec. R. S. from the Rev.* John Swinton, *B. D. F. R. S. Cuſtos Archivorum of the Univerſity of* Oxford, *Member of the Academy* degli Apatiſti *at* Florence, *and of the* Etruſcan *Academy of* Cortona *in* Tuſcany.

Dear Sir,

Read Nov. 24, 1768. THE coin adorned with Etruſcan characters, of which you will meet with a deſcription (ſee TAB. XI. n. 4.) in this letter, at preſent in my ſmall cabinet, was ſome years ſince communicated to the learned world by Sig. Paſſeri; and aſcribed to the city (1) of Pæſtum, in Lucania, of which ſuch noble ruins are ſtill extant, by that ingenious author. This notion, upon farther examination, will be found by no means remote from truth; though, by attributing a wrong power, as I apprehend, to one

(1) Joan. Baptiſt. Paſſer. *De Num. Etruſc. Pæſtanor. Diſſertat.* in *Symbol. Litterar. &c.* Vol. ſecund. p. 13—35. Florentiæ, 1748.

of the characters of the legend or inſcription on the reverſe, and conſequently aſſigning a falſe lection to that inſcription (2), Sig. Paſſeri ſeems greatly to have ſhaken, at leaſt, if not intirely overturned, his own opinion.

The head, with curled hair, on one ſide of this curious minute coin, may not improbably (3), as Sig. Paſſeri believes, be the effigies of ſome famous hero, or general, if not the founder of a city, that antiently bore a relation to the place where the piece was ſtruck; or it may poſſibly, (4) as the ſame learned gentleman alſo ſuggeſts, be allowed to point out to us ſome local deity. Two of the ſymbols on the reverſe undoubtedly repreſent a dolphin and an acreſtolium, though what that between theſe two was intended to point out to us, I cannot, with the ſame facility, take upon me to decide. The globule in the middle of this laſt, as it is termed by Sig. (5) Paſſeri, is moſt evidently on my medal ſuch a concha marina, or ſea ſhell, as we ſometimes meet with on antient coins. This perfectly well agrees with the two ſymbols abovementioned, and, in conjunction with them, clearly evinces the piece in queſtion to have been the produce of a mint erected in a maritime town.

It may not be improper to obſerve here, that a ſilver Greek medal, in fine conſervation, with the word KYMAION on the reverſe, in an oriental direction, from the right hand to the left, and two

(2) Id. ibid. p. 17.
(3) Id. ibid. p. 21.
(4) Joan. Bapt. Paſſer. ubi ſup.
(5) Id. ibid. p. 27, 28.

figures

figures extremely ſimilar to thoſe under the dolphin on my coin, which he takes to belong to the city of Cuma in Campania, has been publiſhed by (6) M. Pellerin.

With regard to the legend or inſcription, preſerved on the reverſe, it may not be improper to remark, that the fifth letter, taken (7) by Sig. Paſſeri for L, is, at leaſt in my opinion, moſt certainly V. This is ſufficiently apparent from even the four coins publiſhed by that ingenious gentleman, in the piece (8) here referred to; and ſtill more ſo from the medal now before me, as well as from another in the valuable collection of the Reverend and learned Mr. Cracherode, Student of Chriſt-Church, both of which are in the fineſt conſervation, and clearly exhibit VV, not LV. In other reſpects, the lection aſſigned this minute inſcription (9) by Sig. Paſſeri ſeems nearly to approach the truth, if it be not perfectly true. I ſhall therefore take the liberty to read it ZIVVTZIS, PHISTVVIS; which, according to the cacography, or uncouth manner of writing, of the Etruſcans (10), mentioned by me in a former paper, may, with ſufficient propriety, be deemed equivalent to the Latin PÆSTVM. The inſcription will, however, become quite another word, by the converſion of the firſt V into L, eſſentially different from the Latin name of the city wherein Sig. Paſſeri ſuppoſes it to

(6) Peller. *Recueil de Medailles de Peuples & de Villes*, &c. Tom. I. p. 47. pl. viii. n. 23. A Paris, 1763.
(7) Jo. Bapt. Paſſer. ubi ſup. p. 19.
(8) Id. ibid. p. 15—17.
(9) Id. ibid. p. 19, 20.
(10) *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* Vol. LI. Par. II. p. 858.

 have

have been ſtruck; the letter L by no means, as a radical, entering into the compoſition of that name. Nor is the laſt element of the word (11) MVTIL, in any of the (12) moſt accurate draughts of Sig. Olivieri's Samnite-Etruſcan coins of Papius Mutilus, found to reſemble v, as Sig. Paſſeri has been pleaſed to aſſert. That element in all thoſe draughts, as well as on the reverſes of two medals of the ſame general in my ſmall collection (ſee TAB. XII. n. 2, 3.), perfectly well preſerved, is moſt apparenly L, in the true Etruſcan, or rather Samnite-Etruſcan, form.

If this notion, which to me appears inconteſtable, ſhould be admitted by the learned, they will of courſe reject the wild and arbitrary ſuppoſition of a modern Italian writer (13); who attributes the piece I am conſidering to Pliſtia, an obſcure inconſiderable town, mentioned (14) by Livy, and ſcarce ever, as far as I can recollect, by any other antient author. For the expunction of the L, a letter here purely ima-

(11) Sig. Gori has remarked, that one of the ſides of the Etruſcan v is now and then ſomewhat longer than the other. When this happens, part of the ſhorter ſide may be ſuppoſed to have been eraſed by the injuries of time; which, indeed, from the inſtances he has adduced, ſeems highly probable. Be that, however, as it will, even ſuch an incomplete v as this is very diſtinguiſhable from the Etruſcan L; as the principal part, or longer line, of the latter either always is or ought to be a perpendicular: whereas both the ſides of the former are in an oblique poſition, though not always equally ſo. Anton. Franciſc. Gor. *Muſ. Etruſc.* p. 414. Florentiæ, 1737.

(12) *Saggi di Diſſertaz. Accad. pub. lett. nella Nob. Accad. dell' antichiſſ. Cit. di Corton.* Tom. IV. p. 133. In Roma, 1743.

(13) Paſchal. Magnon. *De Ver. Poſidoniæ et Pæſti Originibus, &c.*

(14) Liv. Lib. IX. c. xiii. xiv.

ginary, and the ſubſtitution of the v, in its ſtead, which the medal itſelf fully juſtifies, will not, as I apprehend, leave the leaſt room for ſo precarious, not to ſay abſurd, a ſuppoſition. Nor will many of the learned think this too harſh an appellation, as Pliſtia (15) ſeems to have been an obſcure inland town; whereas the ſymbols on the reverſe of my coin plainly evince it to have been ſtruck in a maritime city, and a city of very conſiderable note. It would therefore have been a little unlucky for a certain Engliſh writer (16) to determine in favour of the Italian author abovementioned, and aſſign this piece, as well as all others ſimilar to it, to Pliſtia, as he has done, had he been fully acquainted with the ſubject he wrote upon; but as this ſeems not to have been the caſe, his character, as an adept in this branch of literature, will not be greatly affected by the miſtake.

With regard to the antiquity of the medal I am now upon, I ſhall beg leave to remark, that the forms of the letters it exhibits, ſo perfectly ſimilar to thoſe of the elements preſerved by the coins of Papius Mutilus and Tiberius Veturius, heretofore explained, clearly indicate it to have been ſtruck about the time of the Social war. Beſides, that war is known to have raged in (17) Lucania; and the Lucanians are ſaid to (18) to have been one of the

(15) Phil. Cluver. *Ital. Antiq.* Lib. II. c. xv. p. 772. Lugd. Batavorum, 1634.

(16) See *The Ruins of Pæſtum*, p. 37. Lond. 1768.

(17) Appian. Alexandrin. *De Bell. Civil.* p. 375. See alſo *Philoſoph. Tranſact.* Vol. LII. Part I. p. 29, 30.

(18) Aut. Epit. Livian. LXXII. LXXIII.

principal,

principal nations concerned at that time in the revolt from the Romans, if they did not actually take the lead in that revolt. They were commanded by M. Lamponius and Tiberius Cleptius, two able generals; the former of which defeated a body of Roman troops, under the command of Licinius Craſſus, formed the ſiege of Grumentum, in Lucania, and not a (19) little diſtinguiſhed himſelf, either in the firſt or ſecond campaign of the Social war. The Etruſcan, or rather Samnite-Etruſcan, characters on this Lucanian piece are therefore a very good proof of the truth of what is here advanced. For the principal confederated Italian ſtates, during the courſe of that war, uſed the Etruſcan characters, the antient letters of Italy, and that on their coins, out of deſpite to the (20) Romans. This has been already obſerved by the very ingenious Sig. Olivieri, in the piece here referred to; nor will it, I would perſwade myſelf, be conteſted in any part of the learned world.

The celebrated Sig. Paſſeri ſuppoſes L to have (21) entered into the compoſition of the Etruſcan name of Pæſtum, by which he in a great meaſure, if not intirely, overturns his own hypotheſis, relative to the place where the coin before me firſt appeared. In order to account for this ſtrange ſuppoſition, he aſſerts the antients frequently to have placed the letter L after S; and (22) produces the words STLATVM,

(19) Appian. Alexandrin. ubi ſup.

(20) *Saggi di Diſſertazioni Accademiche pubblicamente lette nella Nobile Accademia Etruſca dell' antichiſſima Città di Cortona.* Tom. II. p. 53. In Roma, 1738.

(21) Jo. Bapt. Paſſer. ubi ſup. p. 19, 20, 21.

(22) Id. ibid. p. 20, 21.

STLITES, for LATVM, LITES, in ſupport of his aſſertion. But here ST, not ſimply S, is added to L, the firſt radical letter, as an obſolete adjection, by no means eſſential to the word; whereas, in his Etruſcan name of Pæſtum (23), ST, not S, precedes L, by no means as an extrinſic addition, but as appertaining to the radix, and conſequently as an eſſential part of the name. This therefore by no means comes up to the point. The proof is altogether as prepoſterous as the thing to be proved. But as I have already exceeded the limits I at firſt propoſed to myſelf in this paper, it is time to conclude; which you will permit me to do, with aſſuring you that I am,

Dear Sir,

Your very faithful,

and moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Chriſt-Church, Oxon.
Sept. 5, 1768.

John Swinton.

(23) Id. ibid. p. 19.

XXXVIII. *Re-*